

Appl. No. 09/752,610
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-22 are pending after entry of this Amendment. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 are herein amended. Claims 2, 7, 12, 16, and 23 are herein canceled. The amended claims are submitted to clarify the present application as described below in reference to specific claim rejections. No new matter is introduced.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant herein amends claim 22 by replacing the term "copper dielectrics" with the term --copper patterns--. Examiner is kindly directed to, e.g., page 17, lines 4-21, and Figures 4A and 4B of Applicant's specification as filed for support of the claim amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22, as amended herein, complies with all requirements of 35 USC §112, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 5-6, 10, 15, 20, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence (U.S. Patent No. 3,923,567) in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,276,997). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in consideration of claim amendments and the following argument.

Applicant notes that claims 2-4, 7-9, 12-14, 16-19, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 2, and amended claim 1 to incorporate the features formally recited in claim 2. Applicant has canceled claim 7, and amended claim 6 to incorporate the features formally recited in claim 7. Similarly, Applicant has canceled claim 12, and amended claim 10 to incorporate the features formally recited in claim 12, and Applicant has canceled claim 16, and amended claim 15 to incorporate the features formally recited in claim 16. Finally, Applicant has canceled claim 23. The features formally recited in claim 23 have not been re-written into another


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claim. Applicant has amended claim 20 to capture features similar to those recited in former claim 23, but the amended claim 20 more precisely recites those features formally claimed in canceled claim 2. Claims 8, 13, and 17 are herein amended to correct dependencies to now canceled claims. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, and 20, as amended herein, recite features contained in claims indicated to be allowable, and therefore each of independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, and 20, as amended herein, are in a condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 3-5, depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, claims 8-9, depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 6, claims 11, 13, and 14, depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 10, claims 17-19, depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 15, and claims 21-22, depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 20, are all likewise allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-22. Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900, ext. 6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P221). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, L.L.P.


Rick von Wohld, Esq.
Reg. No. 48,018

MARTINE & PENILLA, LLP
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 170
Sunnyvale, California 94085
Customer Number 25920